

Nebraska Statewide Voter Registration Project

An Initiative of the 2002 Federal
Help America Vote Act

“HAVA”

Sponsors & Staff

- John A. Gale, Honorable Secretary of State
- Greg Lemon, Chief Deputy Secretary of State
- Neal Erickson, Elections Director, Deputy Secretary of State
- Josh Daws, CTO, Project Lead
- Marie Gregoire, Applications Lead

Executive Summary

- HAVA, 2002 Federal Law
- “A single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the State level...”
- State’s record is the official record
- Requires conversion of 93 counties to one system
- Deadline: January 1, 2006

State Planning Commission

- Appointed citizen advocacy group
- Should comply with all federal requirements of HAVA
- Should not pass initial costs of implementation on to the counties
- Allocation of adequate funds to purchase equipment to implement the central voter registration system, and training mandates should be the primary objectives.

Federal Requirements

- Uniquely identify each voter by DL#, 4-SSN, or voter id
- One record, one voter, tracked statewide across counties, list maintenance
 - Remove duplicates, felons, deaths
- Coordination with State Agencies
 - DMV: DL#, 4-SSN check
 - Courts: Felon convictions
 - Vital Statistics: Deaths

Current Environment

- Each county has their own VR application
- County periodically sends record updates to State Elections division, “CVRDB”
 - Duplicate checking
 - List reporting
- “Aggregate” list of voters, incomplete
- Does not meet federal requirements
- Requires total replacement

Goals & Objectives

- Primary Goal: Meet the HAVA requirements for a single, statewide, centralized Voter Registration system
- Requires:
 - Replacement of systems in all 93 counties
 - Acquisition of new system through bidding process

Supporting Objectives

- Meet all federally dated achievement milestones
- Data Model of One Voter, One Record (statewide)
- A solution model that is achievable with the funding available
- Analyze and preserve useful features of current county systems
- Professional communications and rapport with county election officials, providing information and soliciting input
- Analyze the current business process thoroughly. Document requirements to meet the needs of the varying sizes of counties.
- Draft RFP that accurately and completely describes the needs of the Election Administration
- Conduct professional negotiations with a selected vendor while appropriately protecting the State's interests
- Work with vendor on special enhancements needed for the best fit, of the State of Nebraska
- Work with vendor to effectively convert data and images and preserve content integrity
- Insure that comprehensive and useful training is provided to all users
- Implement standard and effective project management controls

Project Scope

- Voter Record Administration
- Reporting Functions; list production, NVRA Stats
- Search and Query functions
- Absentee Voter management
- Petition Management
- Precinct and Voting District maintenance
- Election Administration;
 - Print poll books
 - Record voting history
 - Election worker support
- Change of Address Reconciliation
- Duplicate Record identification across counties
- Provisional Vote reporting functions
- Online Services for Registration Status and Poll Location Inquiry
- Interface to DMV for new requirements for DL# and SSN#
- Data exchange with legal records on felon convictions
- Data exchange with Vital Statistics on death records
- Data exchange with an NCOA (National Change of Address) vendor
- Implement the NITC's Accessibility Standards

SOS Team Body of Work

- Advance analysis of current process, and solution models
- Acquisition of software and hardware, through RFP process
- Draft design documents for state-specific enhancements with the selected vendor
- Develop migration plans for Conversion of images and data from 93 counties with the selected vendor
- Insure vendor provides training of personnel from all counties to use the system
- Preparation of system environment and installation of equipment
- Develop on-going maintenance strategies

Project Financials

- Federal funds with State Match
- LB14, Election Administration Fund
- Nebraska given \$5M in 2003, with another \$4.9M appropriated for multiple components of HAVA
- Federal pledge for additional funds 04, 05, 06
- Estimated cost of Statewide VR, \$3.2M
 - No good cost models to draw from
 - 1.1 million registered voters, ?\$/voter

Stakeholders

- Eligible Voters of the State of Nebraska
- Nebraska Secretary of State
- County Election Officials
- Players:
 - Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles
 - Nebraska Criminal Justice
 - Nebraska Vital Statistics

Calendar

- Project Definition, April 2003
- Analysis, April –July, 2003
- Solution Modeling, July –October, 2003
- Transition Modeling, August – October, 2003
- Requirements Definition, September – November, 2003
- Risk Assessment, September – November, 2003
- RFP – Development, October – December 2003
- Procurement, December, 2003 – March 2004
- Environmental Preparation, January 2004 – April 2004
- Contract Negotiations, March 2004 – April 2004
- Design Definition, April – July, 2004
- Programming Development & Testing, July – December 2004
- Field Preparation, July 2004 – January 2005
- Conversion Planning, September 2004 – January 2005
- State's Testing, January – March 2005
- County Installation, Training and Migration, April – October 2005

Risk Assessment

- Local Support
- Cooperation of large counties
- Conversion of many different systems
- Resistance to Change
- Limited vendors and resources